

FORTY-SEVENTH

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## BOURNE RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1919.

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TO THE BOURNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my thirteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Bourne Rural District.

For the past five years my reports have been necessarily brief owing to the fact that practically no new works have been done during these years. Now that times are becoming more normal the Ministry of Health are urging all Medical Officers to make a more extended survey of the Sanitary shortcomings and requirements in their respective districts.

### NATURAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Bourne District may be divided into an Eastern and a Western portion, the former flat and fertile, the latter more elevated and less fertile, but well wooded.

With the exception of those employed at the Brickworks, Little Bytham, and Railway Employees, the bulk of the population are engaged in agricultural pursuits. We may therefore say that the occupations of the people are undoubtedly healthy.

The amount of out-door Poor Law Relief for the year ending 30th September, 1919 was £2,998/11/5. The rateable value of the whole District in land is £70,884, in buildings is £54,062; the total assessable value is £89,448.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Population, census 1911, 13,391. Population, estimated 1919 (for birth-rate) 12,399. Population, estimated 1919 (for death-rate) 11,903. Birth-rate per 1000, 18·06. Illegitimate births 26 or 11·6 per cent. Death-rate per 1000, 15·12. Death-rate of children under 1 year, per 1000, 84·8. Average birth-rate, England and Wales, 18·5. Average death-rate, England and Wales, 13·8. Average infantile death-rate, England and Wales, 89.

The number of births in 1919 was 224 (males 123, females 101), a decrease of 15 on the figures for 1918. With an estimated population (for birth rate) of 12,399, the birth-rate works out at 18·06, practically the same as in 1918.

The number of deaths in 1919 was 180 (110 males and 70 females), 35 fewer than in 1918. With a population (for death-rate) of 11,903, the death-rate amounts to 15·12, whereas in 1918 it was 18·2.

The number of deaths under 1 year was 19, 5 fewer than in 1918. The infantile death-rate in this district is therefore 84·8, whereas last year it was 104·2.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1919 was 106, compared with 159 in 1918.

The number of deaths in the Bourne Rural District was 180, 35 fewer than in 1918. The smaller number was due to the absence of any extensive epidemic of influenza, only 4 deaths having occurred from this disease, pneumonia was the cause of 14 deaths, cancer of 17 deaths. As in former years the cases of cancer occur chiefly in the low-lying portions of the District, the actual figures being—4 in the Aslackby District, 2 in the Bourne District, 1 in the Corby District and 8 in the Deeping District. Organic heart disease caused 24 deaths, but the bulk of these were due to advancing years.

Tuberculosis caused 9 deaths, 5 fewer than in 1918—3 in the Billingborough District, 2 in the Bourne District, and 4 in the Deeping District.

Bronchitis caused 15 deaths, appendicitis 2 deaths, nephritis 4 deaths, cirrhosis of liver 2 deaths, rheumatic fever 1 death, diphtheria 1 death, diarrhoea 1 death, violence 4 deaths—no deaths were due to suicide.

The zymotic death rate was 1·1 compared with 1·4 in 1918.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 19, 4 fewer than in 1918, of these no fewer than 10 died during the first 4 weeks of life. Of the children who survived 4 weeks, 3 died from pneumonia, 3 from bronchitis, 2 from convulsions, and 1 from diarrhoea.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The water supply of the District is still very inadequate considering the abundant natural supply within easy reach. Baston, Billingborough, Castle Bytham and Deeping St. James are still badly supplied with this prime necessity. Castle Bytham has made provision for a better supply of water, but the necessary work is still incomplete.

The cost to the rate payers is the only hindrance to the provision of an abundant supply of good drinking water for every inhabitant of the Bourne Rural District.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—The River Welland at Market Deeping and Deeping St. James is still polluted by the sewage of these villages. The sewage of Corby has been diverted from the river Glen into a fissure in the rock. This cannot be regarded as a proper method of dealing with the sewage.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—The drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal have not improved in the past five years and will require a great deal of your attention in the immediate future, if the health of the District is to have due consideration.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The elimination of the old-fashioned midden privy has naturally proceeded very slowly during the past year, as the following figures show :

Old Midden Privies abolished	...	...	...	2
Old Midden Privies converted into Pan Closets	...	...	...	2
New Pan Closets erected	...	...	...	1
New Water Closets inserted	...	...	...	1

### SCAVENGING.

The various schemes for scavenging which have from time to time been proposed (and in a few cases adopted) are at present in abeyance, but ought to be vigorously taken in hand.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The systematic house to house inspection of the District has not yet been resumed, but 1016 houses have been inspected. The tabulated statement in the Sanitary Inspector's Report shows the various repairs to the dwelling houses, and other sanitary works which have been executed.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by By-laws or Regulations.—There is one Lodging house in Deeping St. James which is regularly inspected and is always found clean and suitable for the purpose.

### SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition and water supply of most of the Schools are satisfactory. Aslaekby, Billingborough and Thurlby Schools perhaps being those that require most attention.

Swayfield School was closed from 6th March to 17th March for influenza. Witham-on-the-Hill School was closed from 6th March to 26th March for influenza. Kirkby Underwood School was closed from 20th March to 7th April for diphtheria. Billingborough School was closed from 19th November to 24th December for scarlet fever.

### MILK SUPPLY.

The condition of Cow-sheds of this District has gradually improved, 6 Cow-sheds have been re-modelled so as to provide better light, ventilation, drainage, floor paving and other aids to cleanliness. One new Dairy has been constructed. The surroundings of the Cow-sheds still leave much to be desired, neither the cows nor the hands of the milkers are as clean as they should be. No systematic attempt to prevent the sale of milk from tuberculous cows has yet been made.

## OTHER FOODS.

A good part of your Sanitary Inspector's time has been taken up in visiting the various slaughter houses of the district, and a large amount of meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption. For details see Inspector's Report.

There is no public abattoir in the district, but your Inspector regularly visits the various slaughter houses when the slaughtering is in progress. No action was taken under section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. Three carcasses of cattle and all the offals were condemned for tuberculosis.

The bakehouses of the district are regularly inspected, they are mostly in a good condition and are generally found clean.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.—The notifiable infectious diseases have been unusually prevalent during the past year.

The figures for the various diseases are—diphtheria 12, scarlet fever 33, erysipelas 4, cerebro spinal meningitis 1, tuberculosis 14, pneumonia 16, malaria 9, dysentery 1, measles 16.

The number of deaths from infectious disease was 29 as compared with 66 in 1918. The figures are—pneumonia 11, tuberculosis 9, influenza 4, diphtheria 1, cerebro spinal fever 1. The great decrease being due to the much smaller number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia. No death occurred during 1919 from enteric fever, scarlet fever, whooping cough, or erysipelas, and only one death from diphtheria. Of the 12 cases of diphtheria 4 occurred in the Aslackby district, 3 in the Bourne district, 1 in the Corby district, and 4 in the Deeping district. The 33 cases of scarlet fever were distributed as follows—12 in the Aslackby district, 3 in the Bourne district, 4 in the Corby district, and 14 in the Deeping district. Of the 4 cases of erysipelas 1 occurred in the Bourne district, 2 in the Corby district, and 1 in the Deeping district. Of the 9 malaria cases 4 occurred in the Aslackby district, 1 in the Bourne district, 2 in the Corby district, and 2 in the Deeping district. Of the 16 pneumonia cases 5 occurred in the Aslackby district, 3 in the Bourne district, 2 in the Corby district, and 6 in the Deeping district. The case of dysentery occurred in the Aslackby district, and the case of cerebro spinal meningitis in the Corby district. Of the cases of measles 7 occurred in the Aslackby district, 2 in the Bourne district, 6 in the Corby district, and 1 in the Deeping district.

The 14 cases of tuberculosis were distributed thus—7 in the Aslackby district, 2 in the Bourne district, and 5 in the Deeping district. There is no doubt that many cases of tuberculosis escape notification, or are only notified when death is within sight. No step has yet been taken to secure prompt notification.



Although practically all the cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital, it was found impossible to prevent fresh cases occurring. This was partly due to the severe character of the epidemic, and to the dilatory notifications in one or two instances. Seeing that our Isolation Hospital is always ready to receive these cases, and that a motor ambulance can now always be had, it would be advisable if all the medical practitioners in the district were to notify their cases by telephone; the cost of this to be defrayed by the Council. In the case of diphtheria your Council has for many years paid the cost of swabs being taken for diagnosis and of the anti-toxin used in the treatment.

### SMALL POX.

No primary vaccinations and no re-vaccinations have been performed by your Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention), Regulations 1917.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The question of maternity and child welfare has been brought before the public of this district by the opening of a centre at Bourne, where the mothers and children are seen fortnightly by the Medical Officers of Health for the Urban and Rural Districts. Much credit is due to our Health Visitor, Miss Saul, and the Committee of Ladies for the interest they have taken in this matter. We may be sure that the importance of this work will increase from year to year as its benefits become more widely known. Thus far, no institution for the reception of expectant or nursing mothers and young children as in-patients has been opened.

No notifications of puerperal fever or of ophthalmia neonatorum were received during 1919. Measles, whooping-cough, epidemic diarrhoea, and poliomyelitis were not prevalent to any extent.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1. STAFF.—This consists of your Medical Officer of Health, your Sanitary Inspector and three Health Visitors (1 whole time and 2 part time). Your Sanitary Inspector continued during 1919 to act as Executive Officer to the Food Control Committee in addition to discharging the onerous duties more properly pertaining to his office. The services of the Health Visitors are much appreciated wherever they go.

2. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—There is a well-equipped Isolation Hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases, more particularly those of scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric and tuberculosis. During the past year there have been treated in this hospital:—

25 cases of Scarlet Fever  
12 cases of Diphtheria  
1 case of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis  
25 cases of Tuberculosis

The cases of tuberculosis treated in our hospital are mostly of an advanced character and are sent to us by the Kesteven County Council who pay for six beds which are always occupied.

As no other hospital in Kesteven undertakes the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis the County Council has asked your Council to set apart 12 beds for such cases; and this you have agreed to do as soon as the necessary accommodation can be provided.

The Hospital Staff consists of a Matron, a Sister and two probationer Nurses. There is no doubt that the Isolation Hospital serves a very useful purpose and is much appreciated by the public.

A suitable site has been secured for a smallpox hospital in the event of an epidemic of smallpox occurring.

Chemical analysis of samples of drinking water and bacteriological examination of cases of diphtheria and tuberculosis have been obtained as occasion required.

## HOUSING.

### I.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

- (1) Total number of houses 3,239. New houses erected for the working classes during the year, nil.
- (2) Population 13,391. No important changes have occurred during the past year, nor are any anticipated in the immediate future.
- (3) (a) Shortage of houses, 150, approximately. (b) Measures taken to meet shortage:—Your Council have prepared a scheme for 180 houses for the working classes which has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

### II.—OVERCROWDING.

- (i) Extent—A good many cases of overcrowding have occurred.
- (2) Causes—Deficient number of houses. There has been a greater demand for houses as there have been more marriages since demobilization.
- (3) Measures taken to deal with overcrowding—The new houses in course of erection (1920) are more commodious and have more bedrooms.
- (4) Principal cases of overcrowding dealt with in 1919 --Legal notices were served and action taken in two cases of extreme overcrowding, in others sleeping accommodation has been found for some of the family in the houses of relatives.

### III.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (1) (a) General standard of houses in the district—In some of the villages the housing conditions are quite good, in others many of the houses are very poor indeed. (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses. The chief defects are dilapidated roofs and floors, insufficient light and ventilation, the absence of suitable places for the storing of food, and bad drainage.
- (2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under (a) The Public Health Acts, (b) The Public Health Acts—Notices are issued to the owners of the houses to have the repairs done.
- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness, special measures taken, and any suggestions in the matter—At present the great difficulty is in obtaining materials and labour, and the high price of these.
- (4) Conditions so far as they affect houses as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters—In many cases good drinking water within easy reach is available, in others the water has to be obtained from shallow wells often liable to contamination; the closet accommodation is, on the whole, very fair and is improving every year; the refuse disposal remains a difficult question and will entail considerable expense, but it ought to be taken in hand.

### IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

- (1) Action taken as regards areas represented before the beginning of the year under Part I or Part II of the Housing Act of 1890—no action taken.
- (2) Particulars of, and action taken as regards areas represented during the year—no action taken.
- (3) Information as to complaints made during the year that areas were unhealthy and action taken—no complaints made.

### V.—BY-LAWS relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c.—nil.

- (1) As to working of existing by-laws, and
- (2) As to need for new by-laws or revision of existing by-laws—nil.

### VI.—GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Beyond what has been mentioned under the above headings no action has been taken to remedy overcrowding or insanitary property either under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts.

VII.—APPENDICES. Statistics for the 12 months ended 31st, Dec., 1919.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation.
  - (a) By householders—nil.
  - (b) In the case of rural parishes by Parish Councils—nil.
- (2) Action under section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909.
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Section 250
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation—2 orders were issued.
  - (c) Number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders—nil.
- (3) Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919.
  - (a) Number of orders for repairs issued—3.
  - (b) Number of cases in which repairs carried out by the Local Authority—nil.
  - (c) Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction—nil.
- (4) Closing Orders.
  - (a) Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders—2.
  - (b) Number of closing orders made—2.
  - (c) Number of dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the houses being made fit for human habitation—nil.
- (5) Demolition Orders.
  - (a) Number of demolition orders made—nil.
  - (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders—nil.
- (6) Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily—nil.
- (7) Obstructive Buildings.
  - (a) Number of representations made (section 38 of the Housing Act of 1890)—nil.
  - (b) Number of Buildings demolished—1.
  - (c) Number of representations still under consideration—nil.
- (8) Staff engaged in housing work—1 Surveyor and architect.  
2 Clerk of works.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN GALLETLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Bourne, 26th May, 1920.*



# Bourne Rural District Council.

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## *Report of the Inspector of Nuisances*

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOURNE RURAL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Eighth Annual Report. The War now being over, we find that things are anything but normal, consequently the outlook which we anticipated has not come up to the standard forecasted in our last Annual Report. This year my Report is again in tabulated form, and I hope this will be the last, because of the great strides we hope to make in the Sanitary progress of your district.

The difficulty of transport, building material, &c., has been against us this year and consequently much overdue work has not been carried out, but the world is gradually righting itself, and given time, transport will soon be normal and labour will certainly be available, and we trust building material too.

We hope to see the Scavenging machinery at work again in your district, because infectious disease makes its abode where it is invited, and the best invitation is the refuse heaps which are only too frequently seen in your district. The Drainage arrangements too must have consideration, and especially with the view of the treatment of the effluent. The Water Supplies must have attention also, until every parish is properly supplied, because water is absolutely essential to good health, not only must the houses be kept clean, but also the people need the same for cleansing and drinking purposes, and a good supply of water will encourage the same.

We have been very busy again in the Food Inspection Department and by perusal of the figures a large amount of meat will be found to have been condemned as unfit for the food of man.

The following are the Sanitary Works executed during the year ending December, 1919 :—

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Floors renewed	..	..	..	..	1
New Bedrooms built	..	..	..	..	1
Eaves, Gutters and Spouting repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Houses provided with Earthenware Sinks	..	..	..	..	2
W.C.'s inserted	..	..	..	..	1
Yards paved	..	..	..	..	3
Coal Houses repaired	..	..	..	..	2
New Pantries built	..	..	..	..	2
New Drains inserted	..	..	..	..	25
Old Drains remedied	..	..	..	..	1
New Inspection Chambers built	..	..	..	..	4
Cesspools built	..	..	..	..	2
New Baths inserted	..	..	..	..	1
New Urinals erected	..	..	..	..	1
Number of Privy Vaults abolished	..	..	..	..	2
Privies converted to Pan Closets	..	..	..	..	2
New Pan Closets erected	..	..	..	..	1
New Vent Shafts erected to Drains	..	..	..	..	4
Cowsheds remodelled	..	..	..	..	6
New Dairies	..	..	..	..	1
Houses reconstructed	..	..	..	..	2
Petrol Stores repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Water Supply to Schools	..	..	..	..	1
Total of Sanitary Work executed					71

The following are the Inspections and Visits made during the year ending December 31st, 1919 :—

House Inspections	..	..	..	..	1018
Works in progress (visits thereto)	..	..	..	..	40
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected	..	..	..	..	123
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	181
Workshops, etc., Inspected	..	..	..	..	183
Petrol Stores	..	..	..	..	3
Visits on account of Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	57
Schools Inspected	..	..	..	..	14
Appointments and Interviews	..	..	..	..	160
Total Inspections for the year					1779

## FOOD INSPECTION.

This part of your Inspector's work is most important to the public and has been most exacting to your Inspector. Almost every week cases of the casualty type have been examined, and they are sometimes very difficult to diagnose. After very careful investigation the list below is the result of the condemnations made as unfit for human consumption.

UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR  
ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1919:—

Tuberculous Beef	..	..	..	1,750 lbs.
Decomposed "	..	..	..	9,018 "
Dropsical "	..	..	..	280 "
Hydraemie "	..	..	..	1,120 "
Pericarditis "	..	..	..	560 "
Fevered "	..	..	..	120 "
Pyæmie "	..	..	..	756 "
1 Hindquarter of frozen Beef (with Bone Taint)	..			200 "
Total				13,804

1 Tongue with Actinomycosis.

1 Head "

1 Head and Sticking "

CALVES CONDEMNED.—3 Calves with Seours.

3 " carcases in Decomposed condition.

2 " with (joint ill) disease.

Estimated amount of condemned Veal 480 lbs.

SHEEP CONDEMNED.—3 Carcases in a dropsical condition.

3 " " Fevered "

23 " " Decomposed "

6 " " Hydraemie "

3 " " Emaciated "

1 " " Pneumonia "

1 " " Pleurisy

4 Sheep forequarters condemned with Pleurisy.

Estimated amount of condemned Mutton 2,640 lbs.

PIGS CONDEMNED.—1 Pig's carcase with Hamorrhage

1 Suffocated Pig

1 Pig's Lungs

1 " Skin suffering with Urticaria

FLOUR CONDEMNED.—Three 10 stone Bags of Flour (with Mite Disease).

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Council, Medical Officer of Health, and all other Officials for their courtesy and support in the performance of my duties.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ROSS,

Inspector.

